

## Ben Cook - Education Reform Legislation

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**From:** Jennifer Lavender <jlavendar@daask12.com>  
**To:** <PaulScott@house.mi.gov>, <ThomasHooker@house.mi.gov>, <HughCrawford@hou...>  
**Date:** 5/11/2011 8:14 AM  
**Subject:** Education Reform Legislation

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May 10, 2011

Honorable Members of the House Education Committee:

My name is Jennifer Lavender-Schott and as a member of StudentsFirst, a national movement to transform public education, I am writing to urge you to support the package of education reform legislation currently being considered by the Michigan legislature. These proposed reforms will implement substantive improvements in the way Michigan recognizes, rewards, and retains its great teachers.

I ask you to support ending the antiquated practice of seniority-based layoffs. We know seniority based layoffs are unfair to effective teachers and put children at risk of losing a great teacher. This is especially important when budget cuts are taking effect and teachers will be terminated. In situations like this it is even more urgent to stress that "WHO" is terminated matters and we should try to ensure that the most effective teachers stay in the classroom.

I also ask you to support the provisions for mutual consent. Requiring mutual consent between teachers and principals for teacher placement will foster a sense of collaboration and empower principals to build an effective teaching corps. It will build an entire school community which is collaborative and focused on success and student achievement.

It's time for Michigan to make the changes that are in the best interests of students. Our state's youth and our state's success depend on this.

I urge you to make the choice to stand with us in support of these reforms.

Thank you,

Jennifer Lavender-Schott

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